

In Fashion's Field

First Crop of Spring Modes Now Ready
for Harvesting---Coming of a Puff
Bustle and Slightly Longer
Lines of Skirt.

Characteristic Skating
Suit of Burgundy
Velveteen, Trimmed
with White Kid
and Swansdown.



White Maribou
Trims This
Dashing Suit of Hawthorne Blue Satin.

By Suzanne Latour

WHILE the sand in the hour-glass is constantly changing, the modes assume variations of trimming and line which are extremely interesting to the student of dress. Winter fashions no longer claim our attention. The springtime-awakening comes to the world of style long ere Nature breathes warmth and life into her sleeping children.

The first crop of spring modes is now ready for harvesting, so there is much activity in the field of fashion. Stunning costumes, suitable for every hour of the day, have gradually reached perfection beneath the magic fingers of Fashion's wizards. Now, in their fascinating freshness and beauty, they await your approval.

Before launching into descriptions of the costumes themselves, it may interest the devotees of la Mode to know the general features that predominate the new season's fashions. First, it is to be a colorful spring. Somber garb will no longer be tolerated. Paris has decided to relieve its depression by donning brilliant hues, and, of course, the pace set by Paris is followed by the whole world. Since the fashion centre never does anything by halves I am wondering if too much vivid coloring will be worn?

Behold the Bustle!

A revival, which will be met with disapproval by the over-stout and welcomed joyously by the sylph-like, is the bustle. It has come to stay, for the leading designers are featuring it to a very great extent. Do not fear, however, that you will be called upon to strap the old-time, hair-stuffed, deformity about your waist.

Neither will the crinoline, haircloth or wire bustles—the latter resembling rat-traps—be countenanced. The new bustle is a charming arrangement of puffs, draperies or ruffles that hint but faintly of that worn by our mothers.

Skirts have grown decidedly longer. Thanks be! In fact, the new gowns are strongly reminiscent of the modest garments of the 1840 and 1850 periods. They are tastefully trimmed with pleated ruffles, corded shirings, soutache braiding, applique and bias folds of a contrasting material. Bodices are snugly fitted, and again we will hear the term "as if she were moulded into her frock" applied to the well-dressed woman.

Fascinating Modes.

And what about sleeves? Almost every gown has its particular pair of sleeves. Here the designers have run the entire scale of individualism. There are long sleeves, and sleeves that hardly reach the elbows; wide sleeves, and sleeves that fit the arms so tightly that it will be next to impossible to raise the arms after the frock has been fastened; sleeves without as much as a button to relieve their severe plainness, and others frilled and puffed in the elaborate manner of the Elizabethan era. I thought that the winter fashions were about as fascinating as modes could possibly be, but I award the palm to the new season's harvest without a question.

Of foremost importance to every woman who is thinking about her spring outfit, is the tailored suit. The smartest models are developed in chiffon broadcloth, satin cloth, heavy

silk, homespun and other light-weight weaves. The favored trimmings are soutache braiding, buttons, strappings—of a contrasting material—oriental embroidery and applique.

A joy to the eyes, on a blustery March day, when the world seems clothed in melancholy garb, would be a suit of cheerful, hopeful green in that soft, adorable tone which brings with it a promise of blossoming trees and newly-budded shrubs. The model which pleased my fancy was of satin cloth ornamented with buttons and strapped with the same material. The coat fitted the figure rather closely above the waist, then flared in a full peplum, which extended below the hips. Of course it was belted with a two-inch strap of the material and the low, turned-down collar and the cuffs were bordered with tan-colored faille.

The skirt was box-pleated from the waist line to below the knees and then hung unconfining to flare in care-free freedom about the ankles.

The Stately Redingote.

Other attractive coat suits are featuring the redingote. The latter is sometimes so long that it touches the hem of the skirt. In direct contrast to these dignified stately street costumes are the suits with short, jaunty jackets which seldom hang below the waist line.

Then there are other equally charming tailored suits with short coats, whose many seams make them follow the contour of the figure. Invariably they are finished below the waist line with a short, rippling peplum. The skirts of these chic suits are pleated or circular and some, I have been told, measure from six to eight yards in width. The designers of the tailored costumes are firm believers in the old adage, "Variety is the spice of life."

Having settled the question of fashionable attire for the morning hours, the next to be considered is afternoon dress. Here the couturier has a wider scope to display his sense of the artistic, for he works with supple silks and delicate transparencies, such as lace, tulle, chiffon, mousseline and net.

There are charming frocks of tulle with tight little bodices and wide

A Novelty in Corkscrew Haircloth Which Holds This Seven-Yard Skirt Distended.

skirts banded with velvet. As a rule the bodices have guimpes or chemises of delicate lace or tulle and short sleeves frilled with the same trimming.

Quite worthy of a second glance was a lovely frock of lichen gray tulle over a foundation of silk. The bodice was accented with a black and white front, and had long, full sleeves, tied about the wrists with bands of cornflower blue ribbon velvet. A frill of the tulle stood up crisply about the neck and the waist was girdled with ribbon velvet. The full skirt was trimmed with three bands of the blue ribbon velvet in graduated widths.

Lovely Gray Tulle.

Gray, in all tones, promises to be exceedingly popular this spring. Another attractive afternoon frock is of silver-gray chiffon tulle. The old-fashioned bodice has very full sleeves which are gathered and corded about the wrists to form deep cuffs. The voluminous skirt is bunched up at the back, to give the newest bustle effect; bands of gray velvet—of a darker shade—border the hem.

Scarcely less popular than chiffon tulle will be foulard, soubise and

faille silks. Figured and polka-dotted designs appear in exquisite combinations of color. As a rule the frocks fashioned of these materials are trimmed with bands of plain white tulle and silver lace, while the sleeves and collar are bordered with blue ribbon velvet. The wide skirt is shirred several times about the top; a girdle of blue ribbon velvet, with long sash ends, defines the waist line.

At smart afternoon teas one is sure to find faille and chiffon frocks much in evidence. A youthful design is of Nattier blue faille. The bodice has a vest of folded white tulle and silver lace, while the sleeves and collar are bordered with blue ribbon velvet. The wide skirt is shirred several times about the top; a girdle of blue ribbon velvet, with long sash ends, defines the waist line.

Faille and Chiffon. The evening gowns of the spring season are enchanting. They are puffed and draped, frilled and flounced in a manner that bids fair to turn more than one debutante's head.

There is a ravishing dance frock of apricot tulle and white tulle which looks as if it belonged on a Watteau fan. The pointed bodice has a tucker and short, puffed sleeves of white tulle, and garlands of tiny roses tied with blue bowknots adorn the corsage.

The tulle skirt has an over-drapery of white tulle, caught up about the hem with garlands and bowknots. Surely the maid of 1916 will go down in history as a rival to the eighteenth century beauties for picturesque dress.

Then there are more gorgeous evening gowns of gold or silver lace combined with faille or chiffon in wonderful tones of blue, rose, mauve or green.

Fashion continues to cling to the paillette, beaded and spangled tulle, and wonderful color effects have been obtained by using these materials over metallic tissues.

Just a word about millinery, before leaving the field of fashion. There is a varied assortment of stunning headgear of all shapes and sizes. The crownless hat of the 17th century, again in favor. Clusters of roses are banded beneath its brim and the strings of ribbon or velvet add their coquettish charm to the wearer.

Other models have wide, drooping brims and medium low crowns and are artistically trimmed with flowers and ribbon.

Smaller hats, of the severe tailored or sports variety, with trimmings of wings, quills, bird ornaments or bows of ribbon, possess a chic that will win for them the approval of the "woman-who-knows."

Whether you are ready to buy your spring outfit or not, scan the field of fashion—you will find much to claim your interest.

Edible Birds' Nests

FLYING squirrels, flying foxes, flying lizards, flying frogs, are to be found in Borneo. Among the most noted birds is the little swift collocalia nidifica. Their nests are eaten by the Chinese, and are regarded as a great luxury. These birds build their nests in limestone caves of a glutinous saliva which they produce from their glands; no sticks or any foreign substances are used. The collection of these nests is an important industry with the natives, though they pay a tax on all they take to market. They are served at great feasts of the Chinese, especially at weddings.

Figures compiled by the Austro-Hungarian and German consulates in New York show that 550,000 registrants of their countries who registered themselves for service are unable to obtain transportation.

